
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

FEBRUARY 13, 1851.

Ordered to be printed.

AMENDMENTS

Intended to be proposed by Mr RUSK to the act (H. R. 351.)
“to reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United States, and to provide for the coinage of a three cent piece.”

Strike out all after the enacting clause, and insert:

1 That from and after the thirtieth day of June, eighteen
2 hundred and fifty-one, in lieu of the rates of postage now
3 established by law, there shall be charged the following
4 rates, to wit: For every single letter in manuscript, or
5 paper of any kind upon which information shall be asked
6 for or communicated, in writing, or by marks or signs, con-
7 veyed in the mail, for any distance within the United States,
8 three cents when the postage upon such letter shall have
9 been prepaid, and five cents when the postage thereon shall
10 not have been prepaid; for every such single letter or pa-
11 per when conveyed wholly or in part by sea, and to, from,
12 or through, a foreign country, for any distance over twenty-
13 five hundred miles, fifteen cents, and for any distance under

14 twenty-five hundred miles, ten cents, (excepting, however,
15 all cases where such postages have been or shall be ad-
16 justed at different rates by postal treaty or convention al-
17 ready concluded or hereafter to be made;) and for a dou-
18 ble letter there shall be charged double the rates above
19 specified; and for a treble letter, treble those rates; and for
20 a quadruple letter, quadruple those rates; and every let-
21 ter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall
22 be deemed a single letter, and every additional weight of
23 half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an
24 ounce, shall be charged with an additional single postage.
25 And all drop letters, or letters placed in any post office not
26 for transmission but for delivery only, shall be charged
27 with postage at the rate of one cent each; and all letters
28 which shall hereafter be advertised as remaining over or
29 uncalled for in any post office, shall be charged with one
30 cent in addition to the regular postage, both to be ac-
31 counted for as other postages now are. And the Post-
32 master General shall be, and he is hereby, authorized,
33 whenever the revenue of the Post Office Department shall
34 have exceeded the expenditures by more than five
35 per cent., for one fiscal year, to reduce the postage on
36 letters conveyed any distance within the United States to
37 two cents the single rate, when such postage shall be pre-
38 paid.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all newspa-
2 pers not exceeding two ounces in weight, sent from the
3 office of publication to actual and *bona fide* subscribers,
4 shall be charged with postage as follows, to wit: The post-
5 age on the regular numbers of a newspaper published
6 weekly, for any distance not exceeding fifty miles, shall be
7 five cents per quarter; for any distance exceeding fifty
8 miles and not exceeding three hundred miles, ten cents per
9 quarter; for any distance exceeding three hundred miles
10 and not exceeding one thousand miles, fifteen cents per
11 quarter; for any distance exceeding one thousand miles
12 and not exceeding two thousand miles, twenty cents per
13 quarter; for any distance exceeding two thousand miles
14 and not exceeding four thousand miles, twenty-five cents
15 per quarter; and for any distance exceeding four thousand
16 miles, thirty cents per quarter; and papers published semi-
17 weekly shall be charged double those rates; tri-weekly,
18 treble those rates; and oftener than tri-weekly five times
19 those rates. And there shall be charged upon every other
20 newspaper, and each circular not sealed, handbill, engraving,
21 pamphlet, periodical, magazine, book and every other
22 description of printed matter, which shall be unconnected
23 with any manuscript or written matter, and which it may
24 be lawful to transmit through the mail, of no greater
25 weight than one ounce, for any distance not exceeding

26 three hundred miles, one cent, and for each additional
27 ounce or fraction of an ounce, one cent; for any distance
28 exceeding three hundred miles and not exceeding one
29 thousand miles, double those rates; for any distance ex-
30 ceeding one thousand miles and not exceeding two thou-
31 sand miles, treble those rates; for any distance exceeding
32 two thousand miles and not exceeding three thousand
33 miles, four times those rates; for any distance exceeding
34 three thousand miles and not exceeding four thousand
35 miles, five times those rates; for any distance exceeding
36 four thousand miles, six times those rates. Bound books
37 not weighing over thirty-two ounces shall be deemed mail-
38 able matter under the provisions of this section. And the
39 Postmaster General shall require regular subscribers to
40 periodicals, who receive the same by mail, and on which the
41 postage shall not have been prepaid, to pay the amount of
42 one quarter's postage in advance, and the postage on all
43 printed matter, other than newspapers and periodicals pub-
44 lished at intervals not exceeding three months, and sent
45 from the office of publication to actual and bona fide sub-
46 scribers, to be prepaid; and in ascertaining the weight of
47 newspapers for the purpose of determining the amount of
48 postage chargeable thereon, they shall be weighed when
49 in a dry state. And whenever any printed matter on which
50 the postage is required by this section to be prepaid, shall,

51 through the inattention of postmasters or otherwise, be sent
52 without prepayment, the same shall be charged with double
53 the amount of postage which would have been chargeable
54 thereon if the postage had been prepaid; but nothing in
55 this act contained, shall subject to postage any matter
56 which is exempted from the payment of postage by any
57 existing law. And the Postmaster General, by and with
58 the advice and consent of the President of the United
59 States, shall be and he is hereby, authorized to reduce or
60 enlarge, from time to time, the rates of postage upon all
61 letters and other mailable matter conveyed between the
62 United States and any foreign country, for the purpose of
63 making better postal arrangements with other governments
64 or counteracting any adverse measures affecting our postal
65 intercourse with foreign countries; and postmasters at the
66 office of delivery are hereby authorized, and it shall be their
67 duty, to remove the wrappers and envelopes from all printed
68 matter and pamphlets not charged with letter postage for
69 the purpose of ascertaining whether there is upon or con-
70 nected with any such printed matter, or in such package
71 any matter or thing which would authorize or require the
72 charge of a higher rate of postage thereon. And all pub-
73 lishers of pamphlets, periodicals, magazines, and newspa-
74 pers which shall not exceed sixteen ounces in weight, shall

75 be allowed to interchange their publications reciprocally,
76 free of postage: *Provided*, That such interchange shall
77 be confined to a single copy of each publication: *And pro-*
78 *vided, also*, That said publishers may enclose in their pub-
79 lications the bills for subscriptions thereto, without any ad-
80 ditional charge for postage.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be
2 lawful to coin at the mint of the United States and its
3 branches, a piece of the denomination and legal value of
4 three cents, or three-hundredths of a dollar, to be composed
5 of three-fourths silver and one-fourth copper, and to weigh
6 twelve grains and three-eighths of a grain; that the said
7 coin shall bear such devices as shall be conspicuously dif-
8 ferent from those of the other silver coins, and of the gold
9 dollar, but having the inscription "United States of Ame-
10 rica," and its denomination and date; and that it shall be a
11 legal tender in payment of debts for all sums of thirty cents
12 and under.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be
2 the duty of the Postmaster General to provide and furnish
3 to all deputy postmasters, and to all other persons apply-
4 ing and paying therefor, suitable postage stamps, of the
5 denomination of three cents, and of such other denomina-
6 tions as he may think expedient, to facilitate the prepay-

7 ment of postages provided for in this act; and any person
8 who shall forge or counterfeit any postage stamp provided
9 or furnished under the provisions of this or any former
10 act, whether the same are impressed or printed on, or at-
11 tached to, envelopes or not, or any die, plate or engrav-
12 ing therefor, or shall make or print, or knowingly use or
13 sell, or have in his possession with intent to use or sell,
14 any such false, forged, or counterfeited die, plate, engraving,
15 or postage stamp, or who shall make or print, or authorize
16 or procure to be made or printed, any postage stamps of
17 the kind provided and furnished by the Postmaster Gene-
18 ral as aforesaid, without the especial authority and direction
19 of the Post Office Department, or who, after such postage
20 stamps have been printed, shall, with intent to defraud the
21 revenues of the Post Office Department, deliver any post-
22 age stamps to any person or persons, other than such as
23 shall be authorized to receive the same by an instrument
24 of writing, duly executed under the hand of the Postmaster
25 General and the seal of the Post Office Department, shall,
26 on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of felony, and be
27 punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or
28 by imprisonment not exceeding five years, or by both such
29 fine and imprisonment; and the expenses of procuring and
30 providing all such postage stamps and letter envelopes, as

31 are provided for or authorized by this act, shall be paid,
32 after being adjusted by the Auditor of the Post Office De-
33 partment, on the certificate of the Postmaster General, out
34 of any money in the Treasury arising from the revenues
35 of the Post Office Department.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the Post-
2 master General shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to
3 provide and furnish to all postmasters, and other persons
4 applying and paying therefor, suitable letter envelopes of
5 convenient sizes, with one or more suitable postage stamps
6 of such denominations and value as he may deem expedient,
7 printed or impressed thereon, or attached thereto, which
8 envelopes shall be sold at the cost of procuring and fur-
9 nishing the same, as near as may be, with the addition of
10 the value or denomination of the postage stamps so printed
11 or impressed thereon, or attached thereto as aforesaid; and
12 letters when enclosed in such envelopes, or having postage
13 stamps attached to such letters, or to the envelopes thereof,
14 (the postage stamp or stamps in every such case being
15 affixed or appearing on the outside, and of the value, de-
16 nomination, or amount, required to prepay the postage on
17 such letters under the provisions of this act, and such
18 stamps or envelopes not having been used before,) shall
19 pass in the mails as prepaid letters; and all letters enclosed

20 in such envelopes as shall be provided and furnished by
21 the Postmaster General, as first in this section prescribed,
22 and with postage stamps thereon as aforesaid, (and such
23 postage stamps on such envelopes being equal in value
24 and amount to the rates of postage to which such letters
25 would be liable if sent by mail, and such postage stamps
26 and envelopes not having been before used,) may be sent,
27 conveyed, and delivered, otherwise than by post or mail,
28 notwithstanding any prohibition thereof under any existing
29 law: *Provided*, That the said envelope shall be duly
30 sealed, and the same duly directed and addressed, and the
31 date of such letter, or of the receipt or transmission thereof,
32 written or stamped, or otherwise appear on such envelope.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be
2 the duty of every postmaster to cause to be defaced, in such
3 manner as the Postmaster General shall direct, all postage
4 stamps attached to letters deposited in his office for de-
5 livery or to be sent by mail; and if any postmaster send-
6 ing letters in the mail with postage stamps attached, shall
7 omit to deface the same, it shall be the duty of the post-
8 master to whose office such letters shall be sent for delivery
9 to deface the stamps and report the delinquent postmaster
10 to the Postmaster General. And if any person shall use
11 or attempt to use, in prepayment of postage, any postage

12 stamp which shall have been before used for like purpose,
13 such person shall be subject to a penalty of fifty dollars for
14 every such offence, to be recovered in the name of the
15 United States in any court of competent jurisdiction.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That lists of letters
2 remaining uncalled for in any post office in any city, town,
3 or village, where a newspaper shall be printed, shall here-
4 after be published once only in the newspaper which, being
5 issued weekly, or oftener, shall have the largest circulation
6 within the range of delivery of said office, to be decided by
7 the postmaster at such office, at such times and under such
8 regulations as the Postmaster General shall prescribe; and
9 at a charge of one cent for each letter advertised. And
10 the postmaster at such office is hereby directed to post in
11 a conspicuous place in his office a copy of such list, on the
12 day or day after the publication thereof; and if the pub-
13 lisher of any such paper shall refuse to publish the list of
14 letters as provided in this section, the postmaster may de-
15 signate some other paper for such purpose. Such lists of
16 letters shall be published once in every six weeks, and as
17 much oftener, not exceeding once a week, as the Postmas-
18 ter General may specially direct: *Provided,* That the
19 Postmaster General may in his discretion direct the publi-
20 cation of German and other foreign letters in any newspa-

21 per printed in the German or any other foreign language,
22 which publication shall be either in lieu of or in addition
23 to the publication of the list of such letters in the manner
24 first in this section provided, as the Postmaster General
25 shall direct.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the Post-
2 master General be authorized to contract or make other
3 arrangements for the transportation of mails of the United
4 States through any foreign country, and also for the trans-
5 portation by such transient or other vessels as may be
6 running between ports of the United States and foreign
7 ports, or between foreign ports, in cases where there are
8 no arrangements therefor, and to provide for the collec-
9 tion of such postages on such letters and other mailable
10 matter as may be sent under such arrangements and con-
11 tracts, as may be due to the United States, either by pre-
12 payment or at such foreign ports, and for that purpose, to
13 use and employ as agents, the several consuls of the Uni-
14 ted States, or such other persons as he may think fit:
15 *Provided*, That no arrangement shall be made which will
16 violate the laws prevailing in such foreign ports or coun-
17 tries, or any treaty of the United States.

1 SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That to any
2 postmaster whose commissions may be reduced below the

3 amount allowed at his office for the year ending the thir-
4 tieth day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, the Post-
5 master General shall be authorized, in his discretion, to
6 allow such additional commissions as he may deem just
7 and proper: *Provided*, That the whole amount of com-
8 missions allowed such postmaster during any fiscal year,
9 shall not exceed by more than twenty per cent. the amount
10 of commissions at such office for the year ending the thir-
11 tieth day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-one.

1 SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That no post
2 office now in existence shall be discontinued, nor shall the
3 mail service on any mail route in any of the States or Ter-
4 ritories, be discontinued or diminished, in consequence of
5 any diminution of the revenues that may result from this
6 act; and it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General
7 to establish new post offices, and place the mail service
8 on any new mail routes established, or that may hereafter
9 be established, in the same manner as though this act had
10 not passed.

1 SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall
2 be paid to the Post Office Department in further payment
3 and compensation for the mail service performed for the
4 two Houses of Congress and the other departments and
5 officers of the Government, in the transportation of free

6 matter, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars per year,
7 which shall be paid quarterly, out of any moneys in the
8 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

1 SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That there is
2 hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not
3 otherwise appropriated, the sum of one million of dollars to
4 supply any deficiency that may arise in the Post Office
5 Department.

1 SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secre-
2 tary of the Treasury shall be, and he is hereby, authorized
3 to appoint and employ in the office of the Auditor for the
4 Post Office Department such additional clerks as shall be
5 found necessary in such office in consequence of the pas-
6 sage of this act, not exceeding eight in all, and at such
7 salaries as he may think proper, not exceeding fourteen
8 hundred dollars per annum for one-half of such clerks and
9 twelve hundred dollars per annum for the residue thereof;
10 which salaries, until the close of the next fiscal year, shall
11 be paid quarterly, out of any money in the treasury not
12 otherwise appropriated.

1 SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That the Post-
2 master General shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to
3 appoint and employ such additional clerks in the Post Of-
4 fice Department, not exceeding eight in all, as shall be

5 found necessary in such Department in consequence of
6 the passage of this act, at such salaries, not exceeding
7 fourteen hundred dollars per year for one-half of such
8 clerks, and twelve hundred dollars per year for the other
9 half, as may appear to said Postmaster General to be just
10 and expedient; which salaries, until the close of the next
11 fiscal year, shall be paid quarterly, out of any moneys in
12 the treasury not otherwise appropriated.